

Message Text

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21

ORIGIN NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 H-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 /067 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)
H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)
EUR/P - MR. JERABEK
IO/P - MR. BLACHLY
NEA/ARN - MR. KORN
AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 071191

R 262235Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION NATO
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AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FEBRUARY 26, 1975

QUOTE: MR. ANDERSON: THE SECRETARY WILL BE LEAVING ON THE
5TH. AND, AS WE HAVE CONFIRMED PUBLICLY BEFORE, WE WILL BE
GOING TO CARDIFF IN WALES. FOLLOWING THAT HE WILL LEAVE
FOR THE MIDDLE EAST, PROBABLY -- AND I WOULD LIKE THIS ON
BACKGROUND FOR THE TIME BEING -- PROBABLY ON THE 7TH.

AS USUAL, WE'RE IN THE PROCESS OF CONTACTING THE VARIOUS
PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, AND I EXPECT WITHIN 48 HOURS
TO BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU ANY FURTHER DETAILS I CAN WITH THE
POST-UNITED KINGDOM PART OF THE TRIP.

Q. IS THE SECRETARY OVERNIGHTING IN LONDON ON THE 5TH?

A. YES.

Q. AND THEN CARDIFF ON THE 6TH, OR IS HE GOING BACK TO
LONDON?

A. FOR YOUR OWN GUIDANCE ONLY, AT THIS POINT I THINK THE
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SECOND NIGHT WILL ALSO BE IN LONDON.

Q. DO YOU THINK HE IS LEAVING IN THE DAYTIME ON THE 5TH,
NOT AT NIGHT?

A. I THINK HE WOULD HAVE TO. IN ORDER TO SLEEP IN LONDON
ON THE 5TH, HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE IN THE DAYTIME.

Q. WHAT MORE CAN YOU SAY ON THE TRIP? YOU STARTED ON BACKGROUND TO SAY ON THE 7TH HE WAS GOING TO THE MIDDLE EAST. IS IT TRUE HE IS GOING TO ASWAN ON THE 7TH? AND IS HE GOING TO GO TO DAMASCUS NEXT, AND THEN TO ISRAEL?

A. COULD YOU BEAR WITH ME UNTIL I GET THE ANSWER BACK? THE ONLY THING I CAN TELL YOU AT THE MOMENT IS THAT WE WILL HIT CAIRO -- I MEAN, ASWAN WILL BE HIS FIRST STOP. BUT THEN THE OTHERS, I REALLY WOULD PREFER TO NOT JUMP THE GUN OF THE OTHER PEOPLE.

Q. THERE WAS A REPORT IN TODAY'S PAPER THAT THE SYRIAN GOVERNMENT SAID PRESIDENT ASSAD WAS MISQUOTED BY NEWSWEEK. SINCE THE SECRETARY RESPONDED TO THAT INTERVIEW IN NEWSWEEK YESTERDAY DESCRIBING PRESIDENT ASSAD'S STATEMENT AS A MAJOR STEP FORWARD, I WONDER IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED ANY DIRECT COMMUNICATION FROM SYRIA TO ENABLE IT TO DETERMINE WHAT SYRIA'S POSITION IN FACT IS?

A. I AM UNAWARE OF ANY DIRECT COMMUNICATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

Q. ARE YOU AWARE OF THE RETRACTION?

A. I WAS TOLD ABOUT IT JUST BEFORE I CAME DOWN.

Q. COULD WE HAVE AN INQUIRY ON THAT TO SEE IF THE RETRACTION IS CORRECT, AND IF IT IS CORRECT, WHETHER THE SECRETARY WANTS TO RETRACT HIS COMMENDATION?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT FRANKLY WHAT THE SECRETARY SAID WOULD STILL HOLD, THAT ANY WILLINGNESS TO SIGN A PEACE TREATY WITH ISRAEL OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE A HIGHLY DESIRABLE UNCLASSIFIED

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THING. I THINK THAT WOULD HOLD, IN ANY EVENT, OBVIOUSLY END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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